card 3 and the head carriage 100 and guide shaft 102 may be movable along a second path such that the data head can access the data card on the card support 30 to read and write relative data to the data storage medium on the data storage card. It is also envisioned that the head carriage assembly 100 including guide shafts 102 and the card support 30 can both be movable relative to each other to accomplish the scanning of the data head across the data storage medium of the data card. These alternatives are supported by the disclosure of Fig. 1.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 31 to 39 have been amended as follows:

31. (Amended) A data system comprising:

a data storage card having a data storage medium;

a housing comprising a panel;

an opening formed in the panel sized for passage of the card therethrough along a first path substantially parallel to the axis of the card;

a card support for receiving said card and which is movable between a load/unload position and a read/write position wherein the load/unload positioned is along said first path and said read/write position is located on a second path substantially perpendicular to said first path;

a card handler mechanism comprising at least one pair of driving members for engaging and moving the card between the opening and the card support;

a data head; and

means for moving at least one of the data head and the card support carrying the card relative to one another, whereby the data head can read data from and/or write data to the data storage medium when the card support is at the read/write position.

32. (Amended) The data system according to claim 31 wherein the moving means causes the data head to move along substantially parallel tracks along the storage medium.

33. (Amended) The data system according to claim 31 wherein the substantially parallel tracks are constant-radium curved tracks.

34. (Amended) A data unit, for use with a substrate having first and second edges and a data surface region therebetween, comprising:

a base;

a substrate support, configured to support a substrate, mounted to the base;

a data head drive mounted to the base, the data head drive comprising a data head reciprocally moveable along a second path;

a step driver controllably moving at least one of the data head drive and the substrate support relative to one another along a first path and said second path;

first and second data head support surfaces positioned at opposite ends of a second path and adjacent to said substrate support, said first and second paths being transverse to one another; and

said data head comprising a data head surface which contacts said first and second data head support surfaces as said data head moves along the opposite ends of said second path.

35. (Amended) A method for reading and/or writing data from/to a plurality of parallel data tracks on a substrate comprising:

moving said substrate on a substrate support to a location accessible by a data head;

positioning a data head at a first position on the substrate;

moving the data head along a first data track on the substrate to permit reading and/or writing of data from/to the first data track;

repositioning the data head to a second position on the substrate spaced-apart from the first data track;

moving the data head along a second data track on the substrate to permit reading and/or writing of data from/to the second data track; and

causing said moving steps to be carried out so that said first and second data tracks are parallel data tracks.

36. (Amended) The method according to claim 35 wherein the moving steps are carried out in a manner that the first and second data tracks are substantially curved, constant-radius data tracks.

37. (Amended) The method according to claim 35 wherein the repositioning step is carried out by moving the data head in a direction substantially perpendicular to the first data tracks.